

546th MPs deployment ceremony, See Page A14

Division deploys early, See Page A2

Grand opening for Hunter Fitness Center, See Page B1

Division preps to join 1st BCT

Coalition Forces open CMOC in Ramadi

Spc. Ricardo Branch
1st BCT Public Affairs

RAMADI, Iraq (2/12/07) – Monday morning ushered in a new era for the local citizens of Ramadi when Iraqi army and coalition forces officially opened a Civil Military Operations Center Feb. 12 at Combat Outpost Steel in the Tameem district of Ramadi.

Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces with the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion and 4th Civil Affairs Group opened the CMOC to help the people deal with American military or insurgent damages.

“What we are doing here is opening our doors for four hours every Monday morning where we meet with the locals who have concerns, whether it be damage to their house that resulted from military action, or simple utilities issues,” said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Wegner, 486th Civil Affairs Bn. “Basically, we are here to listen to what the Iraqis have to say.”

Wegner and many of the coalition troops credit the CMOC as the direct link for Iraqis and coalition forces to help improve talks and move forward in the Tameem District.

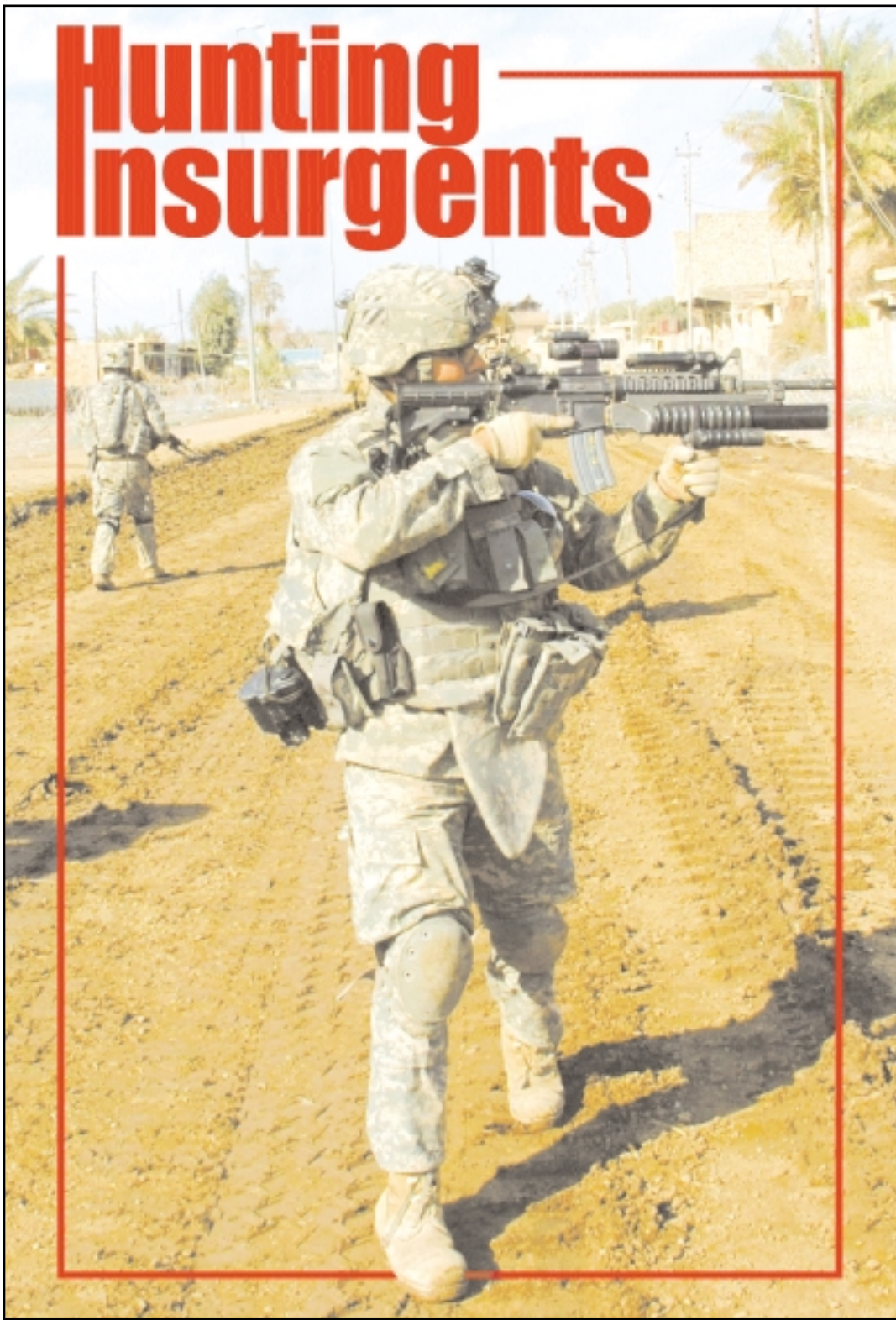
“This is the bridge,” he said. “Without this kind of mission, the Iraqis don’t have a way of voicing their concerns to the American forces.”

“Granted, Soldiers patrolling the streets have the opportunity to meet and interact but here the CMOC is specifically designed for Iraqis to talk about their concerns and that’s what makes this operation so important because it lets them know we are here to listen to what they have to say.”

Before making a claim, an Iraqi must go through a series of extensive questions, which is then followed by an investigation before coalition forces offer a condolence payment.

“When we have an Iraqi come here claiming his home was damaged as a result of fire from the COP we take his information like the time, date and all the information that he has to say and then we assess it,” Wegner said.

See CMOC ————— Page A10



Spc. Ricardo Branch

A 1st BCT Soldier looks through his scope for insurgents during a presence patrol in Ramadi. For the full story, see Page A3.

546th MPs deploy to Afghanistan

Master Sgt. Rodney Williams
3rd Sustainment Bde Public Affairs office

Over 160 Soldiers assigned to the 546th Military Police Company deployed to Afghanistan during the early morning hours of Valentines Day. This is the first time the unit will deploy as a whole company since being activated here in July of 2005.

“I’m pretty excited about the mission we will be doing in Afghanistan,” said Captain Jennifer Reed, 546th company commander. “The mission will be to train the Afghanistan Border Patrol. Of course it might change once we get there, but we have to remain flexible.”

Reed has been in command since June and deploys for the second time in support of the global war on terrorism. This will be her first combat tour to Afghanistan.

“We have some Soldiers that have been to Iraq, some that have been to Afghanistan and those that have no previous deployment experience,” added Reed. “The Soldiers who have no previous experience will be like sponges once we get over there (Afghanistan). I think we have a really good mix.”

The 546th has trained for at least three to four months prior to deployment consisting of two mission readiness exercises as well as squad and lane training.

“I’m very confident in my squad and the platoon as a whole,” said Staff Sgt. David Newsome, a squad leader in 3rd Platoon on his fourth deployment.

“We’ve trained up to help the (Afghanistan) border patrols and their law enforcement to be more efficient.”

The 546th will be in a unique situation in Afghanistan. Two of the unit’s platoons will live with the Afghan border patrol in outlying areas conducting their assigned missions.

“I’ll be the rear battle NCO to track where the platoons are,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Kuhlmann, operations NCO for the unit. “As a former drill sergeant, I trained a lot of soldiers to go downrange. I just want to do my part for the unit and for the nation.”

Several hundred family members and friends came out in the wet and rainy conditions to see the company off as they boarded buses bound for Hunter Army Airfield.

“The toughest part is right now,” said Billy Allred, whose



photo by Master Sgt. Rodney Williams

Cpl Nathan Daniel (foreground) and Pvt Richard Hirneisen both hug their wives, Breanna and Jillian respectively, before their yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

son, Specialist James Allred, is deploying to the Middle East for the second time. “To see him get on the bus and leave for a year, it’s difficult.”

Mr. Allred, who has three sons in the military, drove 650 miles from Sikeston, MO. to see his

son prior to deployment.

“I greatly admire my son’s bravery. He always wanted to be policeman,” added Allred. “That was one of the reasons he joined the Army. It’s been a lifelong dream since he was in the sixth grade.”

416th TC benefits from Spartan Focus

Master Sgt. Rodney Williams
3rd Sustainment Bde Public Affairs

They delivered 42,000 gallons of water, 185,000 gallons of fuel, 92,000 ration servings and multiple spare parts for numerous field operating systems. Transport and distribute were the intentions for the 416th Transportation Company during the recently concluded “Spartan Focus” field exercise on Fort Stewart.

“The mission was to distribute all classes of supplies to the field units,” said Captain Kendrick Powell, 416th company commander. “In addition we also provided security for our convoy operations.”

The 416th TC normally falls under the 260th Quartermaster Battalion and is based out of Hunter Army Airfield. For the duration of this exercise though, the unit supported the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

“It all came together once we sat down and came up with a plan of action of how we will do convoy planning and security,” said CPT Powell commenting on working with 87th for the second time recently.

See 416TC ————— Page A12

Hwys 119, 144 delays expected

Exercises increase traffic as 3ID preps to join 1st BCT

Staff report

Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, announced Friday that Georgia Highways 119 and 144 will remain open while large training exercises take place through the end of this month and into March.

However, the training will have an impact on the traffic volume on the two highways that cross Fort Stewart’s training areas.

Buchs said, now through March 19 traffic will be heavier than normal on the two highways because of the training. More than 2,000 wheeled vehicles will be using the roadways on a daily basis during the training. Signs will be posted along the highways, to alert drivers to the increased traffic and ongoing training.

Buchs cautions that motorists should be alert for both military and contractor vehicles moving in and out of training areas along the highways.

Tracked and wheeled vehicles will be moving in and out of the training areas. Wheeled vehicles will be convoying to other locations on these same highways.

Convoys will occur throughout the day, every day, until the end of the training.

Motorists are encouraged to use alternate routes until the exercises are completed.

However, if a traveler has a necessity to use highways 144 or 119 he needs to be acutely aware of the increased traffic and should give himself more time to arrive at his destination.

Tactical vehicles are required to maintain a 40-mph speed limit, so motorists should be prepared to adjust their speed accordingly. Motorists are asked to remain patient and to also be alert for mud and debris on the highways as well.

Motorists should watch for flashing amber lights on the road where vehicles may be crossing or stopped in the road waiting to cross.

Extra caution should be taken during darkness, when fog is present or other limited visibility situations.

Marne 6 Sends

3rd ID deploys: trained, equipped for success

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

There is a measure of anxiety across the division. It's natural and predictable. Recently, the Department of Defense formally announced that the division headquarters would join other units on an accelerated timeline for deployment.

We worked hard to ensure that the people most important in all our lives, our families and neighbors, learned the news first from the leadership here.

As required, a stop movement order was given by the Army which affects hundreds of Soldiers in the division. Today, many who believed that they would PCS, retire, or ETS will not.

It is important that you understand the reasons and origin of this policy.

There are three primary reasons for

this policy.

The first is obvious. Our nation is at war. It is a war unlike any other in our history. Our nation has called and the men and women who embody the value of "Duty" and "Selfless Service" are needed here.

This war was not of our choosing. Few argue the intent of the terrorists we face. To preserve freedom here, our Army must accomplish its mission over there.

The second reason is that in each case, the Soldier affected by stop loss is required to fill a mission essential, duty position. Across the length and depth of our magnificent division there are diverse skill requirements. We do not



have an excess Soldier in this division, and each is important. We are, after all, a team.

Our team's success depends on each Soldier. The absence of a Soldier degrades each unit's ability to fully accomplish its mission. And now, in the earliest stages of our deployment, we need every Soldier we have. Likewise, we will need every Soldier in the fight to accomplish

his or her mission so that we can win.

The third reason has two parts.

First, there was a change in strategy in Iraq. Our Army's tactical commanders in Iraq requested additional forces to perform important missions. The purpose of the additional forces is, in sup-

port of Iraqi security forces, to bring security to the Iraqi people in Baghdad.

Part two is related to the arrival of new Soldiers in our division as it prepares for its adjusted arrival date. Our division was already on a path for deployment. The accelerated timeline meant that some Soldiers, on assignment orders to Fort Stewart, had not arrived. This of course leaves some Marne Division Soldiers, placing units at risk of mission failure.

Leaders continue to do the hard work. There are a host of personal and personnel issues. We care about each and every one. We can not fail to answer our call to duty.

We will deploy a trained team with the equipment it needs to succeed.

I have the greatest confidence in you all as we begin this important task.

ROCK OF THE MARNE!

"Rock of the Marne" - goes to Iraq in March

Army news service

The Defense Department announced Feb. 16 that the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters, from Fort Stewart, GA, will deploy to Iraq beginning in March 2007. This headquarters previously was scheduled to deploy for Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2007, as announced on November 17, 2006, but will now be accelerated by a little over three months. The unit leadership notified the Soldiers and their families prior to this announcement.

This deployment affects an Army division headquarters of approximately 1,000 Soldiers. U.S. troop levels in Iraq continue to be conditions-based, and are determined upon the recommendations of military commanders in Iraq and in consultation with the Iraqi government.

The 3rd Infantry Division, nicknamed "The Rock of the Marne" for its steadfast defense in the face of numerically superior enemy forces in France during WWI, will provide essential command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in support of security operations in and around Baghdad. Over 4,500 Soldiers from the division are deployed to Iraq already and 8,000 more are preparing to deploy in March and May.

The Army continues to be completely supportive of Army families touched by the war's needs. Without our families' steadfast and unrelenting support, Soldiers would not be ready for combat, Army officials say. Using the Army's time-tested Family Readiness Group organizations, unit and installation commanders and their staffs are ensuring families are fully supported while their Soldiers are away.

Established in 1917, the 3rd Inf. Div. is battle-tested and battle-hardened. From World War I to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marne

Soldiers have achieved legendary accomplishments and established a lasting heritage of service to our country.

The division fought in Europe during WWII and remained in Europe to help protect NATO allies during the Cold War. The division also fought in the Korean War. One brigade fought in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm and Marne division units deployed to Bosnia and Kosovo to restore security there.

This is the headquarters third deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The division was the vanguard unit in the march to Baghdad and it later returned to Iraq and helped fight insurgent forces alongside Iraqi security forces.

Fifty-one heroic members of the division have been honored with the Medal of Honor in its 89 years of service to our nation. Today, 3rd ID Soldiers are supported by friends and neighbors in Columbus, Hinesville, and Savannah, GA where it trains for GWOT missions at Georgia's Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Benning.

The Defense Department and the U.S. Army will continue to announce major unit deployments as they are identified and told. For information, please contact Army Public Affairs at (703) 692-2000.

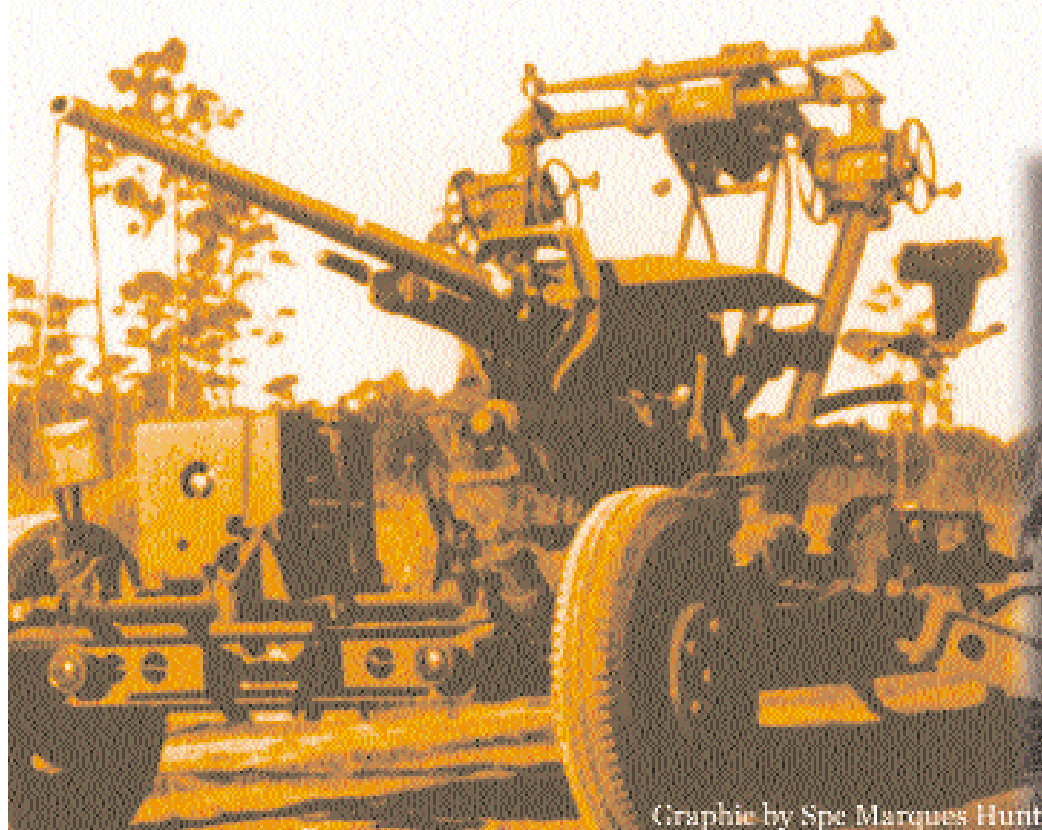


U.S. ARMY NEWS RELEASE



In order to create the safest conditions possible for our Soldiers training in the field and protect the motorists who use the highways, Fort Stewart has reduced speed limits within the installation boundaries. The changes are on Georgia Highway 144 from the Richmond Hill boundary to the Glennville boundary and on Georgia Highway 119 from the installation boundary, near Pembroke, to the junction of Georgia Highway 144 on Fort Stewart. The speed limit is reduced to 45 MPH. There is a reminder on the message boards that are at the installation boundaries and all speed limit signs will be changed. If you must traverse these roadways, please use caution and allow for additional time to arrive at your destination. Be safe.

A Snapshot from Fort Stewart's Museum Archives



Graphic by Spe Marques Hunt



Lt. Col. Robert Steinen of the 7th Regiment, New York National Guard created a collection of photographs that recorded a year in the life of a soldier stationed at Camp Stewart in 1941. In one section of this compelling resource, 2nd Battalion takes the spotlight as Batteries F, G and H work with their 37 mm automatic guns

1st BCT Soldiers clean up Ramadi

Spc. Ricardo Branch
1st BCT Public Affairs

RAMADI, Iraq, Feb. 18, 2007, – First Lt. Eric Beltz and his scout team arrive shortly after dawn into a small Iraqi neighborhood near Combat Outpost Falcon simply referred to as Foxtrot 8. They move through the streets and watch the alleyways as they look left and right for anything out of place in their sector of Ramadi.

They seem almost calm as they communicate with hand signals. However, their calm is actually a professional detachment, a cool reserve which serves them as they move through the streets on the hunt for insurgents.

The team made up of Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor and Iraqi Army Soldiers from 1st Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th IA Division, conducted a patrol Feb. 18 in Ramadi.

“Today, we did a presence patrol to make our presence known to the people in the city,” Beltz said. “We’re looking for possible IEDs, vehicles and people that look suspicious.”

Beltz, a 27-year-old Jacksonville, Fla., native, said the patrols he and his men conduct in their sector are part of operations to draw out insurgents and check the security around their outpost.

“There is a large focus on us maintaining our own security due to the area but none-the-less we’re here for the people of Ramadi,” he said.

Although during this deployment Beltz and his Soldiers find themselves working more with Iraqi Army Soldiers than before during combat operations, which gives him and his men comfort for the future.

“The Iraqi Army helps us with

the locals,” said Spc. Tyson Pactol, a cavalry scout with HHC, 3/69 Armor. “I myself don’t know Arabic but we have an interpreter with us so we are showing them the ropes and integrating them into the patrols so, hopefully, in the near future they can do it on their own.”

He added, “It’s like a police patrol back home where you make the streets safe for the people.”

Pactol, a 21-year-old Molokai, Hawaii, native said the difference between a police patrol back home and a combat patrol in Ramadi is that they make sure there are no bombs in the streets they patrol.

“When we go out people know why we are on the streets because of the units that have come before us, so they don’t get in the way or pose a problem,” he said. “They let us do our job.”

During the operation, an Iraqi vehicle crossed paths with the Soldiers so they moved into a nearby abandoned home while the IA Soldiers searched the car.

“There was a vehicle that we needed to search and make sure it wasn’t an enemy vehicle and that the driver was not on any of our ‘be on the lookout list,’” he said. “Those things take some time so, as opposed to staying in the street where we are more exposed, the patrol moved into a house so we had more cover and concealment and security is better.”

They spotted many locals watching them as both nations Soldiers moved down the streets, but the patrol encountered no enemies, which many credit to the increased patrols in their area.

“We’re doing our job and we are doing it well,” Beltz said. “The Iraqi Soldiers are doing their job and doing it well – we’re winning this fight.”



Photo by Spc. Ricardo Branch 1st BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from HHCompany, 3/69 Armor rush up the stairs clearing a house during a patrol Feb. 18 in Ramadi

Searching, patrolling...



Photos by Spc. Ricardo Branch 1st BCT Public Affairs

Above: A 1st BCT Soldier looks through his scope for insurgents during a presence patrol in Ramadi

Right: A Bradley fighting vehicle with the 1st Brigade Combat Team moves past Iraqi Soldiers conducting a combat patrol in Iraq



hunting for insurgents...

A Bradley fighting vehicle moves down the street alongside Iraqi army Soldiers from 1/3, 7th IA Division



Photo by Spc. Ricardo Branch 1st BCT Public Affairs

Fairness, firmness, consistency remain beliefs for Hunter deputy garrison commander



Jennifer Scales
Public Affairs Specialist

The son of Ulyess and Ada Williams from Holland, Ohio has taken the philosophy of being fair, firm, and consistent throughout his adult life. Kewyn Williams, Hunter Army Airfield's deputy garrison commander, believes with those values practiced every day, problems should rarely arise.

Williams is involved with assisting the garrison commander at Hunter with such daily operations that includes support to the Aviation Brigade and other organizations there.

He is a hands-on person with family support and provides help to spouses of deployed Soldiers.

With a total of over 7,000 military and civilians, Williams addressed his support to each entity at Hunter.

"You have Soldiers assigned here who need to train and get ready for combat, Williams said. "Such is the case with the Aviation Brigade, which is a part of 3rd Infantry Division, and has to be ready at a moment's notice. There is the Ranger Battalion. And you have some supply and support organizations."

The spouses were applauded also.

"They do a heck of a job in their support to the Soldiers on a daily basis by taking care of the family unit," Williams said. "The children cannot be left out because they are all part of this team concept."

"But they all have to be supported through the garrison commander who will provide the right support, if you will, to the family team, whether it be the Soldier, spouse, or the child," Williams added.

That support may come in any manner from directorates, AAFES, Commissary, or any combination thereof for the family organizations.

Civilians are not left out of the equation. As the senior civilian at Hunter, civilians who work there may come to Williams with any issue that they find unable to handle. "I would say that I would be the one-stop shop for them, but then there are naturally

other areas that they could venture to seek help, such as civilian personnel or labor relations. But initially, I am here to listen and talk to them and I can direct them to the right person for assistance if I am not the one," Williams said.

Williams dedicated 26 years to the U.S. Army as an engineer officer.

He retired from his last duty station at Fort Hamilton, New York as a colonel. Ten months later he found himself back in the federal workforce in his current position at Hunter.

Even though this is his first civil service job, Williams has always worked hand in hand with the civilian sector in some fashion. "The military cannot function by itself," Williams began. "It has to have the civilian workforce to support it in order for the active duty Soldiers to execute the things that they do on a daily basis. I understand what they do for the military on a daily basis."

One might gage such a transition from military to civilian to be severe or traumatic. Williams noted that it was neither.

"Although there is a subtle difference, I have seen most of it before," Williams said.

One of the difference he noted was the military had more guidelines and therefore is a bit more stringent in the rules and regulations.

"I found the transition from the military to the civilian workforce wasn't as rigid nor as demanding as the active military, even though I think the military aspect is better," Williams said. "You have to have standards that are higher, I think, for military personnel, because they can very quickly find themselves in a combat situation and that's when those rules, regulations, and standards come into play."

Williams is an offspring of a family of seven children. He honors his mother Ada as the having the greatest influence upon him.

"She was a hard working, dedicated woman who did not get an opportunity to get her college degree until I graduated from high school," Williams said. "That in turn gave me additional inspiration to continue college and get my bachelor's degree. I was going to enlist in the military after high school, but I was fortunate enough to receive a football scholarship from Marshall University."

Williams went through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program, and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1979.

His children are a source of pride and inspiration. Kewyn II is a sophomore at Cincinnati State University. His daughter, Rakayea, is a freshman at Armstrong Atlantic State University.

"My children are, literally, royalty because they have traveled everywhere I've been during my military career," Williams beamed. "Traveling with me to places like Germany, Korea, and stateside assignments. It opened their eyes and advanced their horizons. It helped in their taking off and going in their own directions as young adults."

Williams is one of several individuals from Fort Stewart and Hunter who have been featured in a series of Black History

Month spotlights in this newspaper.

"Everything I have, in respect to Black History Month, had to be paved by someone ahead of me," Williams said. "I don't look at my 26 years of active duty in the military as a big deal, because my forefathers planted that seed. I just want to acknowledge the folks who have gone before me. They opened doors and opportunities for me to do the things I did while I was in the U.S. Army."

"Down to earth and just a common person," Williams describes himself. "You have to treat people with dignity and respect if you want to receive it in return. Treat people the way you want to be treated—fair, firm, consistent."



Anthony Stubbs

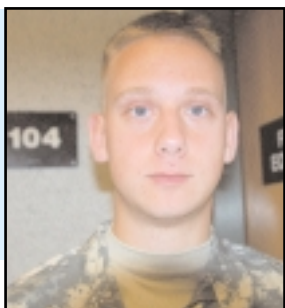
Kewyn Williams, deputy garrison commander for Hunter Army Airfield, pauses during a busy moment to take a call from someone of 'royalty'.

Marne Voices Speak Out

Who is your favorite President and why?

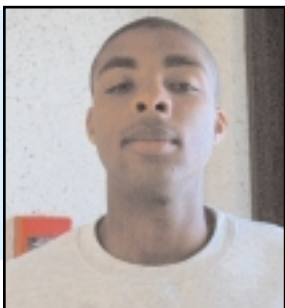
"George Washington."

Pvt. Adam Gardner
A Co., 1/30th Inf.



"George W. Bush, because he will save America."

Corey Perry
Youth Challenge Academy



"George Washington, because without him this country just wouldn't be America."

Christopher Smith
Youth Challenge Academy



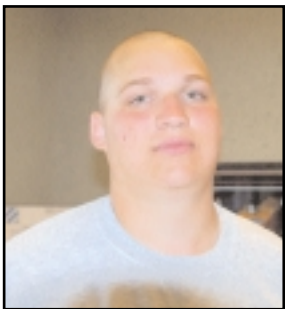
"Bill Clinton because he was down earth and straightforward."

Staff Sgt. Shawn Gallon
F Co., 2/6 BSB



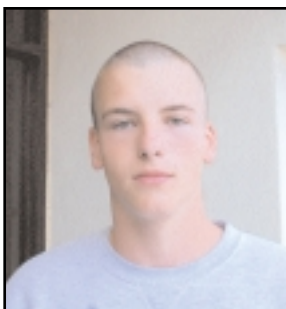
"John F. Kennedy, because he seemed like he wanted to do the right thing for the nation."

Cody McMullen
Youth Challenge Academy



"George Washington, Because he did everything right, he was the first and the best."

Dathan Phillips
Youth Challenge Academy



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GARRISON COMMANDER COL. TODD A. BUCHS

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LAURA LAW

JOINED THE ACTIVE ARMY
BECAME ASSISTANT TO STATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVISOR TO BOSNIA

JOINED THE ARMY RESERVE
ENABLED HER TO PROTECT HER
THROUGH EXERCISES

BECAME A CIVILIAN
STARTED AN ORGANIZATION FOR
VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE

APPLIED HER KNOWLEDGE FORWARD

ARMY RESERVE

When Laura Law joined the Army, she wasn't sure where her career would take her. But from day one, her leadership skills, courage and determination helped her to forge new paths and succeed. By joining the Army Reserve after Active Duty, you'll continue serving your country while sharpening your skills and mastering new ones. Plus, you'll get a bonus, extra paycheck and the chance to train near home. Learn more about CPT Laura Law and how you can build a future filled with possibilities. Visit goarmyreserve.com/laura or call 800-USA-ARMY.



Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Catholic Lenten schedule Feb. 21 - April 7

Fort Stewart Lenten schedule begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21. Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion is every Friday of Lent at 11:45 a.m.; Daily Mass at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Heritage Chapel, building T-85, Lindquist Road.

Hunter Army Airfield Stations of the Cross - followed by soup supper at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays of Lent at Hunter Chapel, building 145.

Liturgical Lenten Schedule announced

Fort Stewart Liturgical Lenten schedule begins Wednesday, Feb. 21: Mass is 6 p.m at Victory Chapel.

Division Colors Casing Ceremony slated

The commander, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, is hosting a Division Colors Casing Ceremony 4 p.m. March 8 at Marne Garden to recognize the departure of the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters and Soldiers in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Uniform is duty uniform. Inclement weather location is Woodruff Theater.

Commander hosts street dance

The commander, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, is hosting a street dance 5 p.m. March 8 at Fort Stewart's Newman Field. Entertainment is being provided by Michael Scott. The uniform is civilian casual. Inclement weather location is Newman Gym.

Stewart Briefs

PWOC offers studies focused on female needs

Fort Stewart's Protestant Women of the Chapel meets 9:30 a.m. to Noon every Wednesday at Marne Chapel. There are four studies offered this spring semester focused on the needs of the modern military wife and female military members. Childcare is provided by Child Youth Services caregivers.

"A firm Foundation," the PWOC Spring Retreat, will be held at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island, Apr 13 and 14. All are welcome.

PWOC, which is sponsored by the Army Chief of Chaplains, says it is God empowered, Christ centered and Spirit led. It exists as an extension of the Chapel and encourages women to grow spiritually within the body of Christ through prayer, the study of God's Word, Worship and Service.

For more information please contact Tammy Owens at owenshouse2@msn.com.

Highways 119, 144 traffic alert announced

Due to increased training throughout the month,

motorists are encouraged to use caution while driving on Georgia Highways 119 and 144 on Fort Stewart. Motorists are urged to use extra caution and be aware of possible vehicle and Soldier road crossings. Preferably, motorists should consider alternate routes.

Register now for your college graduation

Soldiers, family members, and civilians who plan to graduate or who are close to graduating in May of this year, should contact their school for deadlines and procedures for applying to attend the Fort Stewart graduation May 17.

You might be eligible for the HOPE Grant

Georgia residents and Military ID Card Holders, who are attending a Georgia public technical college to earn a certificate or diploma, are eligible for a HOPE Grant regardless of high school graduation date or grade average. You may receive the Hope Grant for an unlimited number of programs that qualify under the guidelines. Full-time enrollment is not required, but you must be making satisfactory academic progress to maintain eligibility. You are not required to maintain a "B" average to renew your HOPE Grant.

The HOPE Grant covers tuition, HOPE-approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance of up to \$100 per quarter. To find out more, or apply on-line, visit https://www.gsfc.org/hope/secure/dsp_eapp_menu.cfm.

Counselors are available at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, Building 100, Knowledge Dr., Fort Stewart. Their operation hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the education center, call 767-8331.

Troops-to-teachers sought

Bill Kirkland, Program Manager for the Georgia Troops to Teachers Program and Spouse to Teachers Program, will be available to answer questions at Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 11 a.m., Feb. 28.

The program provides eligible Soldiers up to \$10,000 to become public school teachers. Under the Spouse to Teachers Programs, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state certification tests up to a total of \$600.

Installation BOSS meeting

The Installation Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will hold a meeting at 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Rockys disco room. The meeting is for Brigade and Battalion Representatives and features Sergeant Major Darrell Jordan, G-4, Special Troops Battalion. For more information, call BOSS president Staff Sgt. Erica Gordon at 767-5119.

New barber shop available

The barber shop at Bldg. 419, next to the furniture store, is

open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call 876-0934.

Free swimming lessons for Soldiers

Sign up for swimming lessons at Newman Pool on Mondays and Thursdays. Only four Soldiers allowed per class. For more information or to register, call 767-3034.

Vehicle registration office moves

The Vehicle Registration Office has moved to Room 2064A, building 253 on Pony Soldier Rd.

Basketball championship

Come see the basketball action at Newman gym. The company-level basketball championship game will be played 7:30 p.m. March 22 at Newman Fitness Center, building 439. To find out more or see how your team is doing, see Page 2C.

Spiritual Fitness Luncheon

The installation chaplain's office is sponsoring a luncheon 12:30 p.m. March 8 at Club Stewart to assist and enhance command camaraderie and spiritual fitness. Tickets are available through the unit chaplains. A suggested donation of \$5 may be given when the ticket is redeemed at the door. Uniform is duty uniform.

Hunter Briefs

Hunter Tax Center is open

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Soldiers, family members and retirees are eligible for this service. Your tax return will be filed electronically and you will receive your refund within approximately seven to 10 days. The Tax Center remains open through April 16.

The Center is located at Building 1211 (Hunter Legal Center). The hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call the Hunter Tax Center at 315-3675 for more information.

Hunter's Montgomery Gate Closed

Starting Feb. 26, inbound traffic at Hunter's Montgomery Gate will be reduced to one lane. The gate will be limited for two weeks for repairs. Motorist are advised to use Wilson and Rio Gates.

Strategies for staying healthy screenings

Do you have a family history of high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes? If so, stop in for a health screening. The screenings take place 10-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. every Monday in Building 308. The screenings are held on a walk-in basis. Call 435-5071 for more information.

Why I love an abandoned vehicle

Pat Young
Frontline Staff

Soldiers and family members at Fort Stewart are facing a lot of challenges with on-going deployments. One of them is what to do with their privately own vehicles.

Having served as a Soldier in the military and a police officer in Mississippi, I've had my eyes opened and learned to appreciate the value of an abandoned vehicle.

Oh, the advantages when someone leaves their car unattended or improperly stored. I can re-count at least five benefits.

- First, an obviously abandoned vehicle, perhaps with valuable items inside, provides burglars and car thieves something to play with, and police job security.

- Second, abandoned vehicles provide neighbors with lively conversation. Especially witty ones if the vehicle happens to be on blocks or in the company of other dilapidated cars or trucks.

- Third, the slow drip of oil from dry rotted gaskets eventually reduces the amount of grass you have to cut.

- Fourth, stagnate liquids, pooling oil, engine and body rust; gives an auto enthusiast something to spend time and money on.

- Fifth, stray cats, birds, mice, hornets and other wildlife need homes too.

But not everyone shares my appreciation. I recently spoke with the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers president, Staff Sgt. Erica Gordon who said she disagreed with me, and recommended Soldiers take care of their cars, a situation she herself faced.

She said when she deployed in 2005 she was concerned about her car and didn't want to return to find her car on blocks.

"I am happy to say that I had a great experience leaving my vehicle at 'The Storage Place' located on 196 going to Savannah," Gordon said. "My car was just as I left it, no additional damages or mileage was on it."

Gordon said qualified Soldiers can store their vehicle at no cost to them under certain circumstances. It turns out that although there is no entitlement to having both Basic Allowance to Housing and special storage of POV; however some qualifications can afford you free storage of your POV at an authorized storage lot.

The qualifications are you be single Soldier, with a Leave Earning Statement showing with-



out dependents; a Soldier married to another service member when both are deployed or residing at different duty stations; a single parent with a childcare plan that requires dependents to leave the residence or be a single reserve component or retiree who was recalled without dependents.

Gordon quoted another benefit in leaving your auto at a stor-

age lot.

"You can contact your insurance company and change your coverage from full to just comprehensive," Gordon said. She said you might be able to save money depending on your insurance company and coverage.

Unfortunately, Soldiers can only store one POV according to transportation. There are other restrictions and conditions that Soldiers can find out about by calling Transportation at 767-8178 at Stewart or 435-0325 at Hunter. For Soldiers who can't or don't want to take advantage of vehicle storage there are procedures you can take to reduce the threat of harm coming to your vehicle, according to transportation.

- First, cleaning your POV, inside and out can prevent the risk of rodents, mold and mildew.

- Second, remove all personal property and easily removable accessories from your POV such as CD players, tools, etc. This reduces takes the temptation away from would be criminals.

- Third, your vehicle should have no more than a quarter tank of fuel when in storage. Having the minimum fuel in your vehicle will make it easier to add fresh fuel later. So, if your vehicle is stored for an extensive period and the fuel is stale, you can still get home. In addition to the fuel, make sure all the vehicles fluid levels are at the proper level.

- Fourth, prevent dry rot to tires, ensure you have proper tire air pressure in all tires during storage. This will also help keep your tires in good condition and from going flat during storage.

- Fifth, If you don't leave your POV at a storage location, leave it with someone you can trust. Someone who can start the engine every once in a while and ensure it is maintained properly.

But that's their advice. Me, I'm an environmentally conscious ex-cop who enjoys stimulating conversation about building homes for squirrels from abandoned burglarized vehicles.

Ask the Judge

Stephen M. Collins
Claims Attorney

Every soldier has many things to do before he or she deploys. One of the most important of these is taking care of your privately owned vehicle (POV).

When you deploy, you cannot leave your vehicle on the installation unless you are leaving it with someone who will be responsible for it.

With that in mind, Fort Stewart has arranged for POV storage at an off-post facility at no expense to you. You should use that facility if you have not planned to remove your vehicle to a safe place, such as a parent's home.

To assist you in understanding the issue of POV storage, what follows are answers to frequently asked questions regarding storage of POVs:

Can I leave my POV at my on-post quarters if my family is staying here?

Yes, but if your family moves off-post for any reason they will be responsible for moving the POV off-post.

My buddy is not deploying. Can I leave my POV with him?

Yes, but if you do, he becomes your agent. If he abandons your POV, fails to renew your registration, or does anything else that results in the vehicle being impounded, towed, or forfeited, you will have no recourse against the government.

I planned to use the POV lot, but now I have to go on emergency leave. My NCO says I will not have time to get my vehicle to the POV before we deploy. What do I do?

Discuss this problem with your chain of command right away. You may be able to put your vehicle in the lot before you go on emergency leave or they can make other arrangements to assist you such as a power of attorney to store your vehicle. Do not leave your POV on post!

I have a car with a large trunk. I plan to store my civilian clothes, computer, and sound system there. Is that OK?

No. DA policy restricts the items left in a stored vehicle to a spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and emergency roadside tools not to exceed \$200 in value. If anything is taken from such storage, you cannot recover any loss from the government.

Am I protected if something happens to my car while it is in the POV lot?

Yes. So long as you did nothing to cause the loss, the POV lot contractor and/or the government will compensate you for most losses.

Do I have to pay to store my POV in government-provided lot?

No.

Do I have to maintain insurance on my POV while I am deployed if it is in the POV lot?

Yes, but you should discuss the circumstances with your insurance company. You may get a discounted rate while it is in storage.

I did not paying attention when this information was briefed and I left my POV on post. What is going to happen?

Your POV will likely be towed by a civilian towing company to an off-post storage facility.

You will have to pay the towing company for the tow fee and storage, which may be an enormous sum, before you can get your car back. It is possible your POV will be deemed "abandoned" and sold to cover the towing and storage fee. You may not receive the proceeds of the sale of your POV.

But I still paying on the loan, will that stop the sale?

Not necessarily. The company may contact the bank or loan company, if the company learns that there is an existing loan, but there is no guarantee that this will happen.

If the company contacts my bank, will that stop the sale?

Perhaps. Banks and loan companies will often pay the towing and storage fees and reclaim the POV.

They may try to contact you or they may deem the POV abandoned under the terms of your note and sell it.

If the sale price does not cover the balance due, the bank or loan company will demand that you pay the difference between the balance of the loan and the sale price.

So I should either use the POV storage lot or carefully take other steps to protect my POV while I am deployed?

That's right.



— Justice Served —

Magistrate Court

On February 13, 2007, Federal Magistrate Court imposed the following sentences for the listed crimes committed by civilians on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield:

Male, age 26; shoplifting; 12 months probation, ordered to pay full restitution, 150 hours' community service.

Male, age 32; speeding, reckless driving; \$450 fine.

Male, age 29; DUI; \$300 fine, 40 hours

community service, 12 months probation, 1 day confinement.

Male, 26; assault; \$200 fine, 12 months probation, 20 hours' community service.

Female, age 53; DUI; \$500 fine, 12 months probation, 1 day confinement, 40 hours community service.

Male, age 56; reckless driving, speeding; \$500 fine.

Female, age 25; driving with a suspended license; 9 days confinement.

Male, age 27; criminal trespass; \$300 fine, 12 months probation.

Female, age 36; possession of cocaine, driving on a suspended license; 10 days confinement for each count, to be served concurrently.

Female, age 31; possession of marijuana; \$500 fine, 12 months probation.

Male, age 26; possession of marijuana; \$500 fine, 12 months probation, 100 hours community service.

Female, age 23; driving with a revoked license, failure to stop at a red light; \$300 fine.

Female, age 26; driving with a suspended license; \$250 fine, 12 months probation.

Female, age 24; speeding; \$100 fine.

Female, age 25; driving with a suspended license, speeding; \$350 fine.

Female, age 23; shoplifting; 45 days confinement.

Male, age 37; driving with a suspended license, speeding; \$450 fine.

Adverse Administrative Actions

Locally Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses

Sgt., 1/75 Rgr, BAC .109

Pfc., 26 BSB, BAC .084

OMPF Filed General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for DUI Offenses

Sgt., 4 BCT, BAC .120

Sgt., 703 BSB, BAC .168

Pvt., 1/75 Rgr, BAC .041

Pvt., 703 BSB, BAC .073

Spc., 1/64 AR, BAC .163

Sgt., BAC .206

Pvt., 1/9 FA, BAC .183

Pvt., 1/9 FA, BAC .197

Sgt., 87 CSB, BAC .184

SGT, 385 MP, BAC .148

SPC, 3-7 CAV, BAC .124

SGT, 87 CSB, BAC .126

Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Pv2 Matthew W. Zeimer, HHC, 3/69th AR, Fort Stewart, Ga, 31314, contact Capt Michael Hurley, rear detachment, 3/69th AR, Fort Stewart, Ga, 31314, at michael.hurley@stewart.army.mil or, call 912-767-4595.

Stewart, Hunter adjutant general in processes

Pat Young

Frontline Staff Writer

The Soldier Service Center at building 253 Pony Road is busy with Soldiers, family members and civilians seeking assistance. The center's staff handles a wide variety of missions, which require a high degree of professionalism and training.

One of the latest arrivals at the building, who meets those requirements, is Williams Tonsing, the new Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield adjutant general. He arrived in early February in time to help the 3rd Infantry Division deploy.

"Mr. Tonsing is a very knowledgeable person," said Judy Waynick, deputy adjutant general for Stewart and Hunter who has been filling in as the Adjutant General since Jake Umholtz retired late last year. "He has a vast background in the military personnel field."

An Army brat, born at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Tonsing graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1976. Tonsing, retiring a colonel, spent a total of 30 years between active and reserve duty. He became familiar with various aspects of soldiering while serving 14 years on active-duty years in units ranging from straight-leg to mechanized to Special Forces, and another 16 years in the United States Army Reserve in units across the continent from Massachusetts to Houston, Texas.

"He came to us from his last job as Chief of Military Personnel for the U.S. Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C." Waynick said. "He seems to have blended in right away. He came in and hit the ground running."



Courtesy photo

William Tonsing is interviewed by Marne Chat hostess Dina McKain after his arrival at Fort Stewart to fill the vacant position as adjutant general.

Tonsing arrived at a time when help was needed.

"With the deployment of the 3rd Inf. Div and other tenant units, our mission increased by about 50 percent, perhaps more," Waynick said. "We are now responsible for cutting all the orders for all the Soldiers deploying. With the abolishment of the 3rd Support Battalion, we picked up manifesting duties. During the 1st BCT's

rotation, back in January, we manned the DAG with a manifesting team for two consecutive weeks, around the clock."

Waynick said Tonsing seems to have transitioned very well.

"He's fitting in pretty well. He's doing a good job," said Gene Oyster, garrison administration. "Of course every where you go, it's new and things are different. But he understands what is going on. He's

AG."

Aside from manifesting Soldiers, the mission of the AG covers a wide variety of duties including in and out-processing, orders, records, identification-card, finance, casualty assistance, medical retention boards, congressional inquiries, dial-the-boss and more. The job is constant.

"He's trying to help out. He walks around to see what's going on," said Glenda Skrine who works in the congressional office. "He wants to make sure we aren't having any problems and to find out if we need help." Tonsing knew it was going to be busy.

Having served in combat units and with the Global War on Terror ongoing my expectations of Fort Stewart were simple," Tonsing said. "I expected the focus would be preparing and going to war. So far that is what I see happening here and I am here to support the mission anyway I can."

Tonsing said he was proud to join the team and said he would do his best to maintain the high standards and support to Soldiers and their families.

He understands taking care of the family as his own has grown up around the military.

He is married to Dee Tonsing and has three children, Jackie who is a grad student at the University of California in Pittsburg, PA, majoring in Athletic Training; a son, Trey who is in his second year at the University of Connecticut on a football scholarship, and Tyler, a junior in High School who enjoys playing football and varsity wrestling.



Spc. Ricardo Branch 1st BCT Public Affairs

Capt. John Granville, a civil affairs team leader with the 4th Civil Affairs Group, listens to an Iraqi local's issues during the CMOC opening Feb. 12 at COP Steel.

He said when they assess damage to property from military operations they look at the times and dates in conjunction with significant acts before moving forward.

"If everything matches up then we have steps we then take to try and alleviate the problem to make life a little better for the individual," Wegner said.

The CMOC sees about 10 to 15 locals a day. This can increase from five to 40 minutes per individual.

"This is our opportunity to find out the needs of the community,"

said 1st Lt. Stanley Peters, 486th CA. "This operation lets us know what's going on down there and lets Iraqis bring up anything we need to be aware of and possibly look into.

"The CMOC is very effective for us because it lets Iraqis talk directly to coalition forces," he said. "This is improving communications between coalition forces and Iraqis because this lets them see who we are and lets them know we are here to help them out."

During the time the CMOC is operating, the Iraqi Army serves

with the Soldiers and Marines at COP Steel providing security and helping to run the meetings.

"One of the best things in Tameem is that the Iraqi army is fully integrated into the CMOC," Peters said. "They are there with every meeting and the citizens see an Iraqi face for the security of this area."

He said that now with a CMOC operational in Tameem, they can begin to prepare the Iraqis for the eventual steps in handing over the control to them.

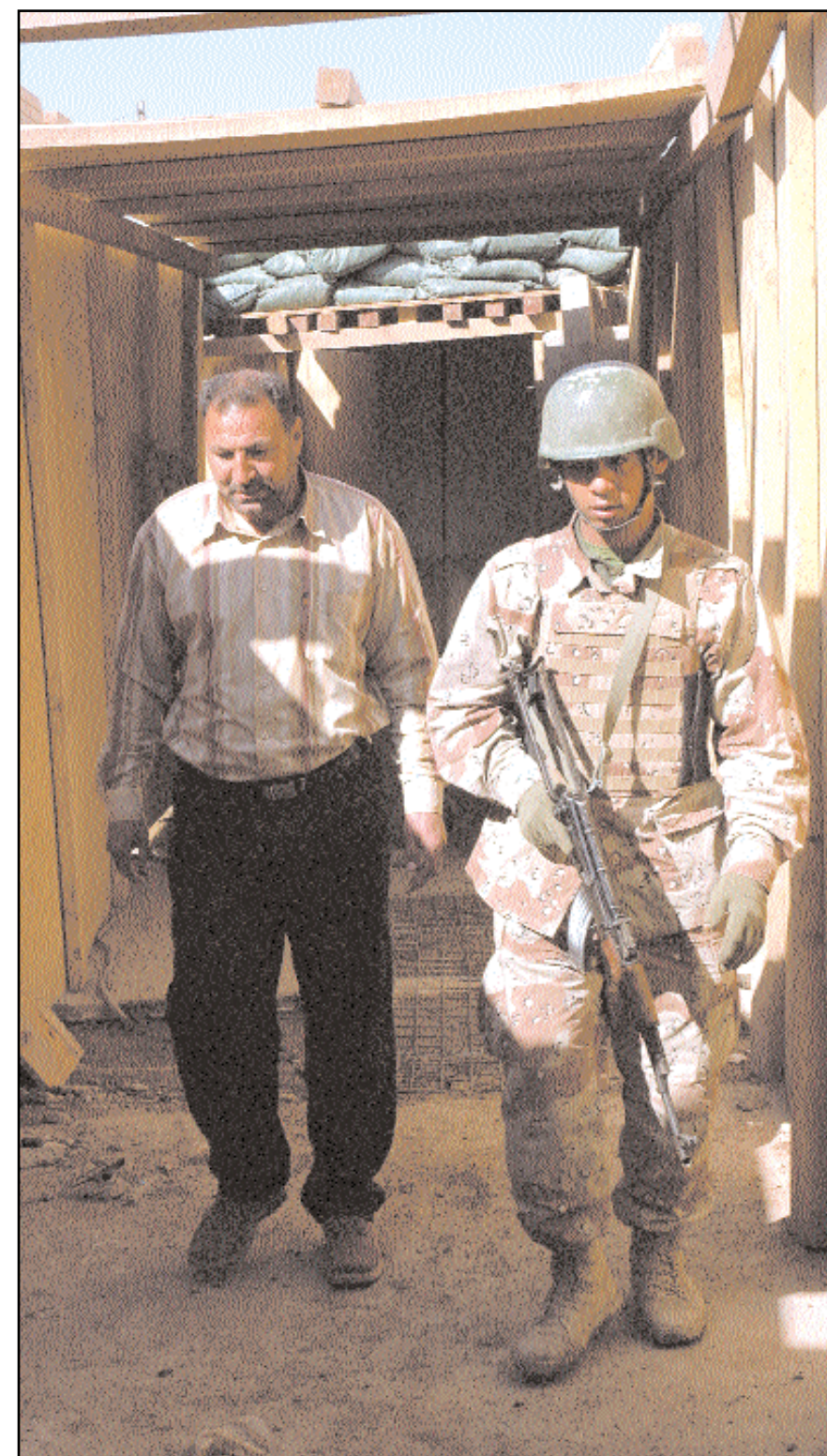
"We want to work on a time for the future where the CMOC will be completely operated by the Iraqi Army so it will be their link to the community so when we help them out it will be in a more supporting role," Peters said.

"As the community and security get better we'll be able to help out with more reconstruction efforts," he said. "There's a lot of work to be done here. The people have issues with electricity, clean water, fuel and garbage on the road, which we'd like to help them repair and make better."

Although the task can seem daunting to many coalition forces working in Ramadi, Peters and the civil affairs troops working in the Tameem district see the people and think otherwise.

"I have a lot of confidence in the people of Ramadi to move forward," he said. "This place has a lot of natural resources and talent, which makes you just want to help them out in any way possible you can."

As the CMOC closed its doors following the last appointment, the civil affairs Soldiers and Marines left in their humvees and saw hope in the future. The little steps they take lead to bigger steps toward helping the people in the Tameem district of Ramadi.



Spc. Ricardo Branch 1st BCT Public Affairs

An Iraqi army soldier escorts a local to the civil military operations center at Combat Outpost Steel.

Families First Casualty Call Center helps families heal

J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - It's been a year since the Army's Human Resources Command launched the Families First Casualty Call Center here to offer additional assistance to families of fallen Soldiers who were lost in combat or by accident.

The toll-free, one-on-one telephone support program has helped more than 3,000 immediate and extended families by providing ongoing support services and links to other resources to help alleviate the pain of losing their Soldier.

"Long after casualty assistance officers have concluded their duties, families often face issues or have questions regarding insurance benefits and support programs," said Lt. Col. Robert Deckard, who leads the call center. "It's our job to help families find answers to those questions, so we function as an extension of the casualty assistance officer."

When a Soldier is lost, the first person to make contact with the family is the casualty notification officer, who is sometimes accompanied by an Army chaplain. Within four hours of death, the CNO will try to visit the home of the primary next of kin to inform them of their Soldier's death. The CNO's responsibility is to let the family know the circumstances as best the Army knows at that time and to provide emotional support.

Families are also informed that circumstances behind the Soldier's death could change following further investigation by the Soldier's command.

Generally, within four hours of the CNO's departure, the casualty assistance officer calls the family and sets up a meeting to discuss final arrangements. The CAO assists the family with funeral arrangements, survivor benefits, and the Soldier's personal items, along with any pay due, citations and awards.

As hard as the CAO works to ensure all is in order and

resolved to the family's satisfaction, sometimes things fall through cracks or changes are made to benefits that are retroactive, but which the family is unaware of. That's where the FFCCC comes into play.

"One of the major areas we handle are the survivor benefits, which deals directly with the death gratuity benefit and servicemembers group life insurance," said Deckard. "While these are things the CAO normally addresses and takes care of, one of the things we're doing now as a result of changes made in 2006 is working in a retroactive manner. That involves contacting next of kin to tell them about increases in benefits they're entitled to."

A significant change was the National Defense Authorization Act, which became effective Jan. 6, 2006, and increased the amount of death benefits paid to beneficiaries. The death gratuity increased from \$12,000 to \$100,000, and applies to beneficiaries who lost their Soldiers between Oct. 7, 2001, and Jan. 5, 2006. Likewise, SGLI increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000, and applies to beneficiaries who lost their Soldiers between Oct. 7, 2001, and Sept. 1, 2005.

"We're going back and trying to notify all the families who are affected by those changes to benefits, and that's the challenge for us," Deckard said. "The database we use doesn't always have the most current phone numbers or addresses - families move. Even so, we've been able to assist more than 1,000 beneficiaries with applications for enhanced death benefits made possible by the National Defense Authorization Act."

While the FFCCC is proactive in its efforts to locate families entitled to enhanced gratuity and insurance benefits, the center encourages families to call the center regarding their lost Soldier's benefits, reports, awards, pay and allowances.

"We have six prior military service personnel who answer the phones around the clock, 24-7, to assist them with further information, perhaps an autopsy report, a

citation, Montgomery GI Bill, the Soldier's possessions or anything misplaced in the process with the CAO that wasn't resolved," said Deckard. "Many of the organizations the families have to deal with are here in the Human Resources Command, so often we can take care of an issue by making a phone call or walking down the hall."

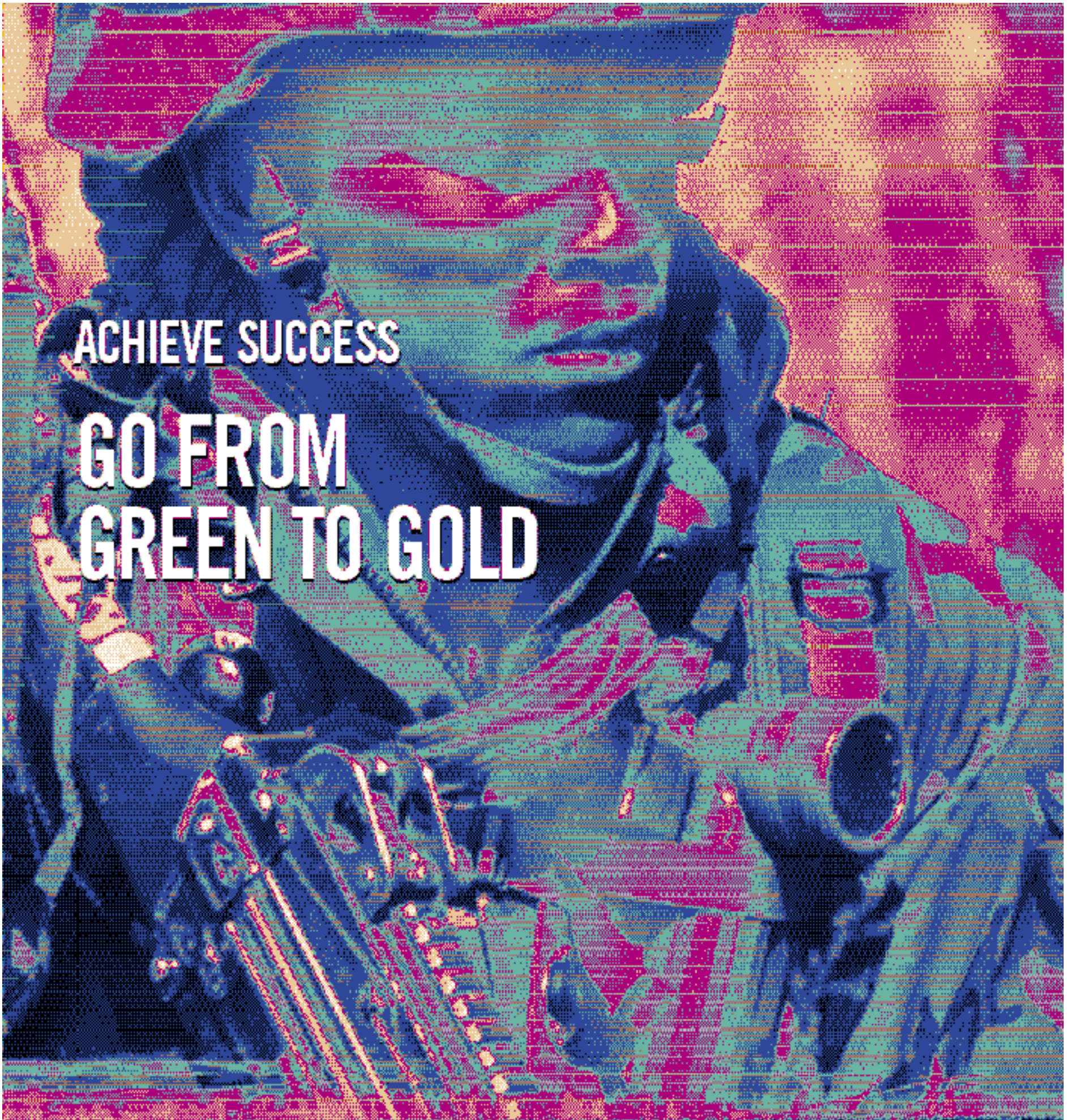
He adds, FFCCC views itself as a one-stop shop dedicated to not just resolving issues concerning the lost Soldier. They're equally concerned with the welfare of the families who sometimes don't know where to turn for assistance with respect to carrying on with their own lives.

"Another resource families may not be aware of is our support programs and connections to outside sources of assistance," Deckard said. "We have well over 75 non-profit organizations who work within specific areas of family, whether it be bereavement counseling, peer mentoring, stress management, legal assistance - a lot of times families don't know about these organizations and the benefits they make available so we act as a conduit."

A relatively new element of FFCCC is the Tragedy Assistance Survivors Program, through which families who've lost a Soldier and healed can help a family suffering a recent loss. Deckard said sometimes family members who have been through a similar situation are able to connect in a way that others can't. He also said the center has been aided greatly by families who have been providing feedback on how the center's processes can be improved upon.

"For a family, we know the loss of their Soldier is traumatic," Deckard said. "We want them to know we're here for the long haul, the longterm, even a couple of years from now. Our Soldier's families won't be forgotten; we just welcome the opportunity to better serve them."

Families who have lost their Soldiers are encouraged to call an FFCCC support coordinator, toll-free at (866) 272-5841 or visit the center online at www.armyfamiliesfirst.army.mil.




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416TC ————— From Page A1

The leaders of the 416th placed special emphasis on evaluating their security posture during the exercise. The unit was often confronted by opposing forces along the field routes while distributing parts and supplies.

"One objective was to perform our battle drills as far as reacting to IEDs, sniper fire and to evaluate and evacuate a casualty," added Powell.

According to Powell, most of the soldiers really don't get a lot of convoy driving experience, but this exercise provided the opportunity.

"The experience nearly matched what we will run into in Iraq. The opportunity to conduct convoy logistic patrols at night-time as well as interacting with civilian vehicles on Highway-144

was good for our soldiers."

The leaders in the 416th felt the "Spartan Focus" exercise offered good, realistic training, but more practice for the young soldiers was still needed.

"A lot of our leadership has been downrange and know what to expect," said SGT Isidro Sanchez, assistant convoy commander. "This exercise gave the new soldiers an opportunity to see what we will do on deployment."

The 416th's goal was to push the Soldiers to the next level by averaging at least two convoy missions a day.

"The overall training value was there," said Powell. "The soldiers stayed motivated, there was no complaining and they were anxious for more."



Staff Sgt. Teddy Horn

From left to right, Pfc. Joshua Lyntlin, Pfc. Nicholas Feltman and Sgt. Isidro Sanchez at Forward Operation Base Titan shortly after the download of equipment in the rain.



Sgt. Lorenda M. Morris

Capt. Jennifer L. Etters, a 3rd Sust. Bde. S-3 officer, practices administering an IV on a simulator during Combat Lifesaver training held at 3rd Sust. Bde. Thursday.





GMH

MILITARY HOUSING

Stewart

Join GMH Walking Club

Join us for our very first meeting! Don't try to get in shape alone; do it with friends! Put on your sneakers and walk your way into good health! Strollers welcome. The event starts 9:30 a.m. March 5 and March 12 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Come to St. Patrick's Day Party

Put on something green and join the party! Come celebrate with crafts, food and fun 3:30-4:30 p.m. March 16 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Blow the Biggest Bubble

It's National Bubble Blowers Week, so come and participate by blowing bubbles of all shapes and sizes! 3:30-4:30 p.m. March 22 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Join Pen Pal Club

Our monthly meeting is here again. Members, bring a new friend to join in on the fun and take the time to write your pal. 3:30-4:30 p.m. March 28 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Stop and Smell the Flowers

Welcome spring time with fresh flowers and a stress-free life! Come plant your very own flower and take advantage of some helpful information on how to alleviate stress in your family, 4-5 p.m. March 30 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

Join Neighborhood Huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH.

Help make your neighborhood a great place to live! March 13 (Marne Homes) and March 20 (Marne Terrace) at 10:30-11 a.m. Events take place at the Playground on the corner of Davis St. and Hero Rd. (Marne Homes), and the Playground at the inter-

section of Victory Division and Mindoro Loop (Marne Terrace).

Other neighborhood huddles coming soon!

Hunter

Join St. Patrick's Day Party

Put on something green and join the party! Come celebrate with crafts, food and fun on March 14 at 4:30-5:30 p.m., New Savannah, New Callaway Community Center.

Blow the Biggest Bubble

It's National Bubble Blowers Week, so come and participate by blowing bubbles of all shapes and sizes! 4-5 p.m. March 19 at New Savannah, New Callaway Community Center

Join Pen Pal Club

Our monthly meeting is here again. Members, bring a new friend to join in on the fun and take the time to write your pal. 4-5 p.m. March 26 at New Savannah, New Callaway Community Center.

Stop and Smell the Flowers

Welcome spring time with fresh flowers and a stress-free life! Come plant your very own flower and take advantage of some helpful information on how to alleviate stress in your family, 4:30-5:30 p.m. March 23 at New Savannah, New Callaway Community Center.

Join Neighborhood Huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live! March 19 (Wilson Acers) and March 26 (New Gannam) at 10:30-11 a.m. Events takes place at the LocaKen Heller Jr. Community Management Office.

Other neighborhood huddles coming soon!



Photos by Sgt. Lorenda Morris

(Left to Right.) Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Inf. Div. Commander; Command Sgt. Maj. John R. Calpena, 3rd Inf. Div. Command Sergeant Major; Brig. Gen. Jim Huggins, 3rd Inf. Div. Assistant Div. Commander for Maneuvers; Lt. Col. Jacqueline B. Lett, 3rd Sustainment Bde. Deputy Commanding Officer and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tolbert, Special Troops Battalion Command Sergeant Major attend the deployment ceremony for 546th MP Company Friday.

Left: 546th Military Police soldiers board one of the buses enroute to Caro Gym for pre-deployment processing before they depart for Afghanistan.

Selfless service

546th MP honored at deployment ceremony

Sgt. Lorenda M. Morris
3rd Sust. Bde. PAO

One hundred and fifty Soldiers from the 546th Military Police Company were honored in a deployment ceremony Feb. 9 at Marne Gardens.

Family members and fellow Soldiers attended the ceremony to show their support as 546th MP Co. prepared to leave Marne Country bound for Afghanistan on an area security mission.

The ceremony was attended by Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division commander, Brig. Gen. Jim Huggins, 3rd Inf. Div. Assistant Division Commander for Maneuvers and Command Sgt. Maj. John R. Calpena, 3rd Inf. Div. command sergeant major.

"Know that you're doing something that everyone can't do," said Lt. Col. Jacqueline B. Lett, 3rd Sustainment Brigade deputy commanding officer, as she addressed the deploying Soldiers.

You have been training extremely hard for the last several months and haven't missed a beat, she added.

We've been focusing on our warrior task, participating in home station mission readiness exercises as well other mandatory training, said First Sgt. Russell I. North, 546th MP Co. first sergeant.

Though 546th MP Co. has previously deployed elements of its unit to Egypt and Afghanistan, this will be their first deployment as an entire unit since their activation in March 2005.

Many Soldiers expressed optimism about their upcoming

departure.

"I'm looking forward to my first deployment," said Pfc. Steven Hill, a medic with the 546th MP Co. "I want to get more medical experience and get to know the people in my unit better."

"They (the Soldiers) have continued to amaze and impress me with their hard work and willingness to go that extra mile," said Capt. Jennifer D. Reed, 546th MP Co. commander. "There is nothing I'd rather be doing than deploying with this company," she added.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Tolbert, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Bde. command sergeant major, closed out the ceremony by praising and thanking the Soldiers and their families for their sacrifices.